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***LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT FOR TRAFFIC PHOTO ENFORCEMENT
GAINS SUPPORT OF KEY HONOLULU COUNCIL MEMBER***

A proposal by the State Legislature to permit county police departments to use fixed cameras to monitor speeding on State and county roadways has gained the support of a key Honolulu City Councilmember.

Nestor Garcia, chair of the Council's Transportation Committee, told a joint House hearing today that he supports the intent of the Legislature's proposed amendment, but that he would not support a revival of the troublesome and unpopular "Van Cam" program.

The committees on Transportation and Public Safety & Military Affairs approved the measure, and amended it to require that the driver of the vehicle be identifiable from the photo. The bill now advances to the House Judiciary Committee.

The joint committee's proposal replaced the entire contents of Senate Bill 2344 with new language that permits counties to use fixed cameras to enforce traffic laws regarding red light violations and speeding.

"I raised the issue of re-visiting photo enforcement at my recent Transportation Committee meeting (March 18). But it was in the context of it being part of an overall solution to the problem," Garcia said.

(more)

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"I did not, and do not, advocate returning to the so-called Van Cam program that I helped to kill as a member of the House of Representatives."

Garcia said he was pleased to see the Legislature attempt to assist police departments around the State in their efforts to deter speeders and street racing.

The proposed law would allow police to mount fixed cameras to monitor both State and county roads.

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